

**Finance Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 17, at 6:30 pm
Bellingham Municipal Center
Arcand Meeting Room**

Finance Committee Members Present: J. Allam (Chairman), J. Collamati (Vice-Chairman), K. Keppler, B. Boyd, J. Kuzmeskas, J. McCarthy

Finance Committee Members Absent: All Members Present

Meeting Commenced: J. Allam called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

J. Collamati made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 24, 2023, Finance Committee Meeting. Seconded by K. Keppler. Approved 5/0. J. Kuzmeskas abstained from the motion.

K. Keppler made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 10, 2023, Finance Committee Meeting. Seconded by B. Boyd. Approved 5/0. J. Collamati abstained from the motion.

Public Hearing: Mr. Marano and Mr. Houston were present to discuss the School Department's requests, as follows:

Mr. Houston gave a brief summary on the High School Honeywell HVAC system that needs upgrades. There are intermittent problems with the system not working and upgrades are needed to the VAV Boxes. This request is for Phase I, which is 22 Controllers for Zone #2 and Phase II, which is 26 controllers for Zone #2.

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend \$90,400 from Free Cash for the HVAC upgrades needed at the High School. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 6/0.

Key Fobs are being requested for the Stallbrook and DiPietro Schools in order to electronically monitor access to the elementary schools. These systems can turn on/off certain keys at any given time, in order to restrict access to certain areas. The request will include installation of the devices for 5 access doors at Stallbrook School and 4 access doors at the DiPietro School. The total price of the systems and installation is \$111,470. There is currently \$100,000 from the Capital Investment Trust Fund that will be put towards this purchase.

J. Kuzmeskas made a motion to recommend \$11,470 from Free Cash for the balance needed to purchase and install the key fob systems at the Stallbrook and DiPietro Schools. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 6/0.

The School Department is requesting the purchase of 2 Ventrac tractors with mowing decks and a field groomer attachment. After discussion regarding the quality and efficiency of these machines, the Committee members agreed on the purchase of 1 tractor at this time. If the machine meets the expectations needed, members said another machine can be recommended at a future meeting.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend the purchase of 1 Ventrac tractor, in the amount of \$49,999 from Free Cash. K. Keppler seconded. Recommended 6/0.

Mr. Marano gave a brief summary on the additional funding needed for the purchase of a previously approved 14-passenger athletic bus. The original request was for \$65,000 and was funded at the May 24, 2023, Annual Town Meeting. When the bids came in for the vehicle purchase, they were higher than expected and require additional funding.

J. Collamati made a motion to recommend \$31,998 from Free Cash to provide the additional funding needed for the Athletic bus purchase. B. Boyd seconded. Recommended 6/0.

Public Hearing: Ms. Cornell-Smith and Ms. MacKinnon were present to discuss some of the FY24 Town Warrant Articles as presented below:

A majority of the Warrant Articles will be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting, scheduled for October 25th.

Article 10 – Acceptance of G.L. c.41, §111M

No vote is needed by the Finance Committee for this Article item

Article 11 – Acceptance of G.L. c.41, §111N

No vote is needed by the Finance Committee for this Article item

Article 12 – Deed In Lieu of Foreclosure

K. Keppler made a motion to recommend Article 12 of the Town Warrant as presented. J. Kuzmeskas seconded. Recommended 6/0.

The additional Warrant Articles will be presented at the next Finance Committee Meeting.

New Business, Emails, Correspondence, Bills:

K. Keppler made a motion to approve an invoice in the amount of \$318.32 for Finance Committee Clerk, Tina Griffin, for the month of October 2023. Seconded by J. Kuzmeskas. Approved 6/0.

The next Finance Committee Meeting will take place on Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 6:00 pm, in the downstairs meeting room.

B. Boyd made a motion to adjourn at 7:31 pm. Seconded by J. Kuzmeskas. Approved 6/0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tina M. Griffin
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